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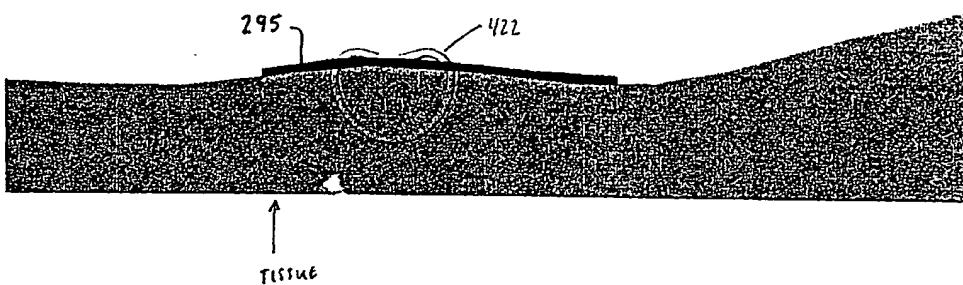
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(54) Title: SURGICAL SUTURING INSTRUMENT AND METHOD OF USE



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(57) Abstract: A device is disclosed for introducing a flexible elongated element (442) through at least two portions of a subject. The device includes a proximal end (212) and a distal end (210), and an advancement unit for longitudinally advancing the flexible elongated element. The device also includes a first curved die for imparting a looping configuration to the flexible elongated element and a second curved die for receiving the flexible elongated element at the distal end of the device. In a further feature of the invention, a cutting mechanism (206) is provided.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US01/50961

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : A61B 17/00

US CL : 606/144, 108, 139

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 606/144, 108, 139, 145, 146, 147, 151, 142, 170, 167, 205, 207, 208; 112/169, 80.08

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 5,499,990 A (SCHULKEN et al) 19 March 1996, See entire document.	1-37
A	US 5,766,186 A (FARAZ et al) 16 June 1998, See entire document.	1-37
A	US 5,759,188 A (YOON) 02 June 1998, See entire document.	1-37
A	US 5,417,700 A (EGAN) 23 May 1995, See entire document.	1-37
A	US 5,308,353 A (BEURRIER) 03 May 1994, See entire document.	1-37
A	US 4,453,661 A (GENYK et al) 12 June 1984, See entire document.	1-37

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"O"	"Z"	document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
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